

Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission

Minutes of May 18, 2009 Meeting

Essex Library, Highland Road

Convened 7:07 p.m.

Present: Susan Anderson, Brian Janes (co-chair), Ginger Lacy (co-chair), Gayle Lawrence, Martha Moore, Garry Plunkett Martin Van Hof. **Excused:** Dick Bixby, Phil Schuyler.

Guests

Tiverton Garden Club (TGC). Sharon Culberson and Alita Marks were present to review TGC plans for the Elaine Lee Memorial area (old kiosk site) in preparation for the rededication scheduled for June 22. The TGC concept for posting seasonal flower images and historical information on the kiosk was explained, along with a sign that described Elaine Lee's work to preserve Weetamoo Woods. It was agreed that a tasteful sign done by Tiverton Sign Shop would be affordable and appropriate. It was further agreed that Lacy would work with TGC on a final sign design and kiosk layout that would be agreeable to TOSC, and that Plunkett will refine wording of the Lee history sign.

TGC will not do plantings around the memorial stone but rather leave the site vegetation natural and improve its appearance by eradicating the infestation of stinging nettle. Van Hof and Plunkett volunteered to address that nettlesome problem.

TGC has a meeting to approve the plan on the same day as the rededication. TOSC suggested finding a way to get that done earlier, and offered to help get everything installed and ready for the ceremony. Plunkett volunteered to contact Buz Wyman, who built the kiosk, for possible carpentry assistance.

Recreation Commission. Jack Cook, Chair of the Commission was present to offer to coordinate work at the Town Farm parking area in conjunction with the Pardon Gray Preserve trailhead at that location. Since the trailhead is not a TOSC responsibility, he will contact the Tiverton Land Trust.

Administrative Announcements and Reports

Minutes for the April meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Bixby's written financial report was reviewed and accepted, as follows.

Open Space Appropriation	\$32.71
Fort Barton Appropriation	\$1,704.61
Open Space Stewardship	\$6,439.29
Debit – LJ Sylvia	\$3,350.00
Pocassetlands Stewardship	\$2,895.00

Acquisition	\$58,564.32
April receipts	\$7,402.55

It was agreed to check with Treasurer's office on obligating Fort Barton funds before end of Fiscal Year.

Lacy announced that Anderson's public program on Fort Barton history will be deferred to the Fall because of the pressing deadline for grant requests for the historic memorial design, and the need for further historical research and program preparation.

Trails and Habitat

Plunkett reported that the crushed stone had been moved and spread at the Weetamoo kiosk site and that the trails to be used for the coming walks with elementary school 2nd graders had been walked and cleared. The materials for the Fort Barton chain fence are in hand and can be installed soon. That project, and repairing a Ft. Barton red trail stairway will be the next priority stewardship work so the Weetamoo red trail site visit was deferred.

Education and Grants.

Lawrence requested input for the application for the Roger Williams University freshman community service day scheduled for August 25th. Plunkett agreed to contact Schuyler to confirm his plan for Ft. Barton and provide Lawrence with a total number for TOSC.

Anderson reviewed the schedule for the elementary school walks in Weetamoo Woods in which all schools will be participating this year – up from one school last year.

Anderson reviewed the results of her investigation of grant sources and coming historic preservation workshops that appear possible for the Ft. Barton memorial project.

Plunkett announced that he would be doing a tour of Weetamoo Woods for The Nature Conservancy Wednesday, May 20 at 10 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 8:58 pm.

Recorded by Garry Plunkett